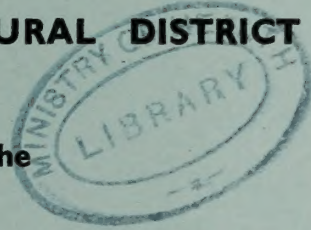


CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

in the



Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1948

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
HOBSON STREET,
CAMBRIDGE.

June, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesterton Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1948 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and vital Statistics of the Chesterton Rural District. The Report is drawn up on the lines suggested in Circular 3/49 issued by the Ministry of Health.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,510
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£139,428
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£558
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,010

The district is agricultural in character and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, jam making, etc.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births:—

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	575	302	273
Illegitimate	...	...	...	36	19	17
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	611	321	290
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	17.2
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	17.9

Stillbirths:—

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	11	6	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	1	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	13	7	6
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per thousand total (Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	20.8

Deaths:—

				Total	Male	Female
				349	173	176
Death rate per thousand estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	9.8
Death rate per thousand (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	10.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per thousand (Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	11	8	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	11	8	3
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per thousand live births	...	...	...	...	...	18.0
Legitimate Infants per thousand Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	19.1
Illegitimate Infants per thousand Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	63

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

Births and Death rates for the last six years as compared with the year under review:—

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Birth rate	16.6	15.8	19.4	18.2	19.2	18.9	17.2
Death rate	11.6	10.4	11.9	13.0	11.4	13.9	9.8

Classification of Deaths under Age Groups

Ages			Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	8	3	11
1 and under 2	...	...	1	—	1
2 " " 5	...	...	1	1	2
5 " " 15	...	...	1	5	6
15 " " 25	...	...	2	1	3
25 " " 35	...	...	6	3	9
35 " " 45	...	...	6	4	10
45 " " 55	...	...	8	12	20
55 " " 65	...	...	31	12	43
65 " " 75	...	...	53	38	91
75 and over	...	...	56	97	153
Totals	...	...	173	176	349

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

Medical Officer of Health:—A whole-time Officer who also acts for all the Rural Districts in the County.

Sanitary Inspectors:—The normal staff consists of a Chief Sanitary Inspector and two qualified district Inspectors.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of water, etc., are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. Samples of milk are examined at the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge.

HOSPITALS:—

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of Tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Within the limits of the staff available, the work of the Department

has shown steady progress during the year, particularly in connection with food hygiene, public cleansing, and the repair of unfit houses. Naturally, the urgent necessity for additional housing accommodation is reflected throughout the whole field of public health and must of necessity influence the attitude of the Department and its many problems. Action under the Housing Acts is governed to a large extent by the speed with which new houses can be made available, and the scarcity of labour and materials in certain trades continues to restrict progress in some directions. It must also be admitted that an ever-increasing proportion of the officers' time is taken up with work of a purely administrative character.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1948:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Total Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	4,351
Miscellaneous Visits re complaints, etc.	...	...	...	...	635
Drainage	...	...	...	...	391
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	150
Factories	...	...	...	...	196
Visits re Verminous Persons or Property	...	...	...	...	52
Public Cleansing Visits	...	...	...	...	353
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	57
River Pollution	...	...	...	...	81
Schools Inspected	...	...	...	...	23
Requisitioning, Squatters, etc.	...	...	...	...	37

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:—

Visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	52
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	86
Preserved Food Premises—					
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	59
(2) Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	38
Ice Cream Premises (retailers)	...	...	...	...	86
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	186
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	44
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	83
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	499
Retail Dairies...	...	...	...	...	115
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	...	...	...	...	208

HOUSING:—

Housing Inspections (P.H.A., 1936)	...	...	...	...	155
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	273
Housing Inspections (Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	77
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	125
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	137

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

Visits and Enquiries	...	...	...	...	83
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	64

HOUSING:—

Post-war Housing Progress up to 31st March, 1949:—

1. Number of dwellings completed including:—					
Prefab. bungalows	...	...	...	...	50
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	4
Flats	...	...	...	...	4
Swedish houses and Airey houses	...	...	...	...	38
Hut conversions	...	...	...	...	45
Permanent houses	...	...	...	...	195
Total					336
2. Permanent houses in course of erection or contracts being drawn up					
	...	...	...	...	127
3. Conversion of huts into Temporary Dwellings (ten-year) in hand					
	...	...	...	...	Nil
4. Conversion of huts into Temporary Dwellings (five-year) in hand					
	...	...	...	...	32
Total					495

Number of houses built or in course of erection by private enterprise					
...	...	...	...	...	Permanent
					32
					Temporary
					17
					Flats
					4

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:—

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	77
Reinspections made	...	...	...	...	...	125
Demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	6
Undertakings (Section 11) accepted...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Undertakings (Section 11) cancelled	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	...	113
Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken:—						
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	385
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses in respect of which undertakings (Section 11) have been accepted						67
Houses (or parts) closed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Houses made fit by formal action	...	...	...	...	...	24
Houses made fit by informal action...	...	...	...	...	...	860

Note.—These figures are totals up to 31.3.49.

Of all the work of the Department, this aspect presents the greatest problem, as is only to be expected. Until such time as the available accommodation can be increased substantially, little progress can be expected in dealing with unfit properties. Furthermore, with the very heavy increase in the cost of repairs and maintenance, many property owners find the position untenable, having regard to the low rents permitted under the Rent Restrictions Act; and due regard must be had to this aspect when determining the Department's policy. It has been found once again that only the more serious defects can be tackled, and

these preferably under the Public Health Act, 1936—the normal procedure under the Housing Act, 1936, being virtually precluded.

The problem may be better assessed when it is realised that in spite of (1) the provision by the Council of over 1,600 separate dwellings (all categories) since 1919, and (2) the recent revision of the Council's list of applicants, there are still 1,288 families awaiting accommodation, of which 403 are families of agricultural workers. These figures are made up as follows:—

Families in lodgings (no separate houses), (including 155 agricultural cases)	665
Families in separate dwellings but under notice, Court Orders, and being in unfit accommodation (including 248 agricultural cases)	623

Even these figures do not convey the complete picture, as little regard has been taken of the sub-standard accommodation which is rapidly approaching the demolition state. It is estimated that at least 500 houses would be required to replace the obviously unfit cottages in existence today.

REQUISITIONING—

Work previously undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in this connection has now been taken over by the Council's Housing Manager, and at the 31st March, 1949, 62 properties were retained by the Council on requisitioning orders, providing accommodation for 72 family units. A noticeable increase in the traffic in old properties has been observed since the normal requisitioning procedure was suspended.

TEMPORARY HUTMENTS—

The conversion of ex-R.A.F. and military hutments for temporary housing accommodation has assumed such proportions that the Council's architectural staff has been heavily engaged during the year.

As will be seen from the housing figures, 45 huts have already been converted and a further 32 huts are in hand. At the present time the Council has taken over a total of 168 huts, which are occupied, although not all converted. This course has, no doubt, relieved the pressure somewhat, enabling the Council to deal with a number of urgent cases. The acquisition of some of the sites, however, has brought in its train certain problems connected with other matters, such as the provision of services, and maintenance of huts not primarily intended for semi-permanent habitation.

WATER SUPPLY:—

Since the comprehensive statement in my Report for 1945, and in addition to the works reported in 1947, the distribution mains in the Parish of Waterbeach have been completed. Further, the villages of Horningsea, Landbeach, Eltisley and Croxton have now been supplied. Small mains extensions have been carried out at Longstanton (May, 1949). The Western Area Scheme is in hand and mains have been laid through Toft village and approaching Comberton. Progress on this Scheme has been somewhat disappointing owing to labour difficulties and the slow rate of pipe deliveries. It is gratifying to note that some measure of progress has been attained and that schemes have now been prepared and submitted for approval covering all the remaining Parishes in the area without a piped supply. These parishes are:—

Parish	Estimated Population (1942)	Estimated Total Gallons per day required for all purposes	Suggested source of supply	Progress made with Schemes
Barton	482	13,194	Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board. (Wells at Kingston, Bourn and Fenstanton)	Contract in hand. Mains laid in Toft and progressing to Comberton
Comberton	539	15,293		
Toft	257	7,698		
Harlton	289	7,890		
Haslingfield	685	21,198		
Graveley	176	5,922	Ditto	Scheme prepared for submission
Papworth St. Agnes	103	3,331		
Dry Drayton	410	14,743	Ditto	Scheme approved, commencing date December, 1949
Childerley		1,885		
Hardwick	444	11,324		
Newton	257	5,278	Ditto via Harston	Scheme prepared and submitted

It might be noted that, although new mains are available in certain parishes there is difficulty in arranging for the necessary connections to properties.

How this difficulty can be met, without undue delay, is one for the Council to decide.

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY :—

During the year it was necessary to cart water as follows :

Parish	Approx. Gallons per week	Duration
Caldecote	1,500	Continuously
Dry Drayton	4,000	"
Eltisley	3,000	"
Croxton	500	"
Toft	4,000	"
Papworth St. Agnes	500	"
Hardwick	5,000	"
Comberton	500	"
Total Gallons per week		19,000

The transportation of water for drinking and domestic purposes continues to present a problem. At the present time there are approximately 80 tanks distributed at convenient points in the Parishes referred to, which are filled, when necessary, by the Council's ex-Army tanker. This arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory and one looks to a considerable reduction in this work, as a result of the water schemes in hand.

At the Council's Waterworks at Harston (supplying Harston village only), it has been necessary to install a submersible type pump, owing to the depressed level of the greensand bore dropping below the effective working depth of the existing pumps. No further trouble has been experienced.

The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board wells at Kingston, Bourn and Fen Stanton are proving adequate at present, but, in view of the future requirements of the constituent authorities, a new bore is to be sunk at Bourn to increase the available supply. The contract has been prepared and tenders invited.

CHLORINATION—

With the exception of two works serving single Parishes (Harston and Willingham), all public supplies are chlorinated. The routine samples reveal excellent bacteriological results from all sources.

SAMPLING—

The public supplies are sampled monthly for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, and, apart from high hardness figures, the results have been satisfactory. Consideration was given by the Joint Water Board to the question of installing softening plant at their three works, but the scheme was deferred by the Ministry of Health until a more opportune time.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	good	good	good	good	good
Reaction (pH value)	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.9	7.0
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.1	3.75	8.6	2.3	6.75
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0014	0.0008	0.0014	0.0414	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0008	0.0008	0.0006	0.0004	0.0252
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0311	0.0332	0.0285	0.0196	0.2110
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	0.55	0.65	absent	absent	0.10
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
No. of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ditto at 21°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Maximum Hardness during year (grains per gall.)	15.28	26.34	36.05	3.82	32.05
Minimum ditto	7.6	23.56	23.0	3.46	29.22

Total Number of samples taken	...	...	115
Samples from Public supplies	...	...	69
Samples from private wells, etc.	...	...	46
Samples reported safe for drinking	...	...	95
Samples reported unsafe for drinking	...	...	20
Water supplies to Houses improved as a result of action by the Department (excluding mains extensions)			12

WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.12.48

Parishes	Population Estimated 1948	No. of Houses 1948	Statutory Authority	No. of Houses taking Supply (Rated)	% of Houses at 31.12.48	Remarks
Barton	509	181	C.R.D.C.	—	—	W.A.S.
Bourn	732	237	C.R.D.C.	169	70%	
Boxworth	195	63	C.R.D.C.	45	71%	
Caldecote	371	120	C.R.D.C.	85	70%	
Caxton	352	114	C.R.D.C.	83	72%	
Childerley	22	7	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Comberton	571	185	C.R.D.C.	—	—	W.A.S.
Conington	117	38	C.R.D.C.	22	60%	
Coton	346	112	C.W.W.	83	74%	
Cottenham	2,603	875	C.R.D.C.	787	90%	
Croxton	182	59	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Mains just complete
Dry Drayton	398	129	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Elsworth	454	147	C.R.D.C.	94	64%	
Eltisley	300	97	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Mains just complete
Fen Ditton	602	195	C.W.W.	104	53%	
Fen Drayton	414	134	C.R.D.C.	53	40%	
Fulbourn	2,249	440	C.W.W.	274	62%	
Girton	2,092	580	C.W.W.	536	92%	
Granchester	494	160	C.W.W.	144	90%	
Graveley	201	65	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Hardwick	482	156	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Ditto
Harlton	263	85	C.R.D.C.	—	—	W.A.S.
Harston	921	298	C.R.D.C.	252	84%	
Haslingfield	680	220	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Ditto
Hauxton	358	116	C.R.D.C.	77	66%	
Histon	2,501	842	C.W.W.	1,135	88%	
Horningsea	334	108	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Mains laid
Impington	1,275	429	C.W.W.	(with Histon)	88%	
Knapwell	93	30	C.R.D.C.	17	56%	
Landbeach	509	194	C.R.D.C.	6	—	Mains laid
Lolworth	120	39	C.R.D.C.	4	10%	
Longstanton A.S.	352	114	C.R.D.C.	59	51%	
Longstanton S.M.	136	44	C.R.D.C.	6	14%	
Madingley	188	61	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Milton	643	208	C.W.W.	147	70%	
Newton	266	86	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Oakington	513	166	C.R.D.C.	139	84%	
Over	995	338	C.R.D.C.	255	75%	
Papworth Everard	1,517	216	C.R.D.C.	198	91%	
Papworth S. Ag.	102	33	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Rampton	222	72	C.R.D.C.	68	94%	
Great Shelford	2,309	780	C.W.W.	689	88%	
Little Shelford	541	175	C.W.W.	117	67%	
Stapleford	809	262	C.W.W.	202	80%	
Stow-cum-Quay	500	162	C.R.D.C.	78	48%	
Swavesey	905	293	C.R.D.C.	249	85%	
Teversham	451	146	C.W.W.	100	61%	
Toft	263	85	C.R.D.C.	—	—	W.A.S.
Waterbeach	1,523	493	C.R.D.C.	152	30%	
Westwick	43	14	C.R.D.C.	4	29%	
Great Wilbraham	420	136	C.W.W.	89	65%	
Little Wilbraham	287	93	C.R.D.C.	36	26%	
Willingham	1,785	578	W.W.W.	500	87%	
	35,510	11,010		7,058 (64%)		

C.R.D.C.: Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W.: Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

W.W.W.: Private Company (Willingham Water Company).

W.A.S.: Western Area Scheme.

PUBLIC CLEANSING :—

The Department now operates a scheme of refuse collections by direct labour in all parishes. The shedule of collection is now as follows :—

COLLECTIONS, 1948

House Refuse					
Weekly	Hses.	Fortnightly	Hses.	By Request	Hses.
Girton	553	Waterbeach	444	Pap. St. Agnes	28
Histon	790	Landbeach	185		
Impington	389	Milton	195		
Gt. Shelford	723	Hauxton	108		
Lt. Shelford	172	Harston	275		
Stapleford	245	Newton	86		
6 parishes	2,872	6 parishes	1,293	1 parish	28

Monthly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.
Barton	171	Fulbourn	408	Madingley	58
Bourn	221	Grantchester	156	Oakington }	159
Boxworth	57	Elsworth	134	Westwick }	
Caxton	94	Eltisley	87	Over	302
Caldecote	105	Fen Drayton	181	Rampton	68
Childerley	7	Graveley	45	Quy	106
Conington	31	Haslingfield	208	Toft	74
Cottenham	794	Harlton	74	Swavesey	263
Coton	111	Horningsea	107	Teversham	134
Comberton	189	Hardwick	144	Wilbraham Gt. }	222
Croxton	60	Knapwell	28	Wilbraham Lt. }	
Dry Drayton	111	Lolworth	32	Willingham	504
Fen Ditton	170	Longstantons (2)	126		
		39 Parishes	5,741 houses		

This Department also undertakes the collection of nightsoil as follows:—

Collection of Night Soil

Weekly	Houses
Waterbeach	350
Grantchester (part) by contract	50
2 parishes	400 houses

Having regard to the large area of the district (174 square miles) and the scattered nature of the villages (53), it has been the aim of the Department to provide a weekly service to semi-urban parishes adjoining Cambridge, and a less frequent collection to all other parishes. This has been achieved successfully during the year and no parish has a collection less frequently than once per month. The service has proved

invaluable and is greatly appreciated. The usual troubles arising from the shortage of labour and the long hauls involved in a rural district have been experienced, but, generally speaking, the service has been well maintained.

Three Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yd. vehicles are employed and the inclusion of many new properties—huttid camps, etc.—plus the substantial increase in the amount of refuse put out for collection, has thrown a severe strain on the resources of the Department. A new 12 cu. yd. vehicle has been ordered which, it is hoped, will ease the position considerably. The Department continues to hold a stock of B.S.S. dustbins for resale to the public at cost price.

DISPOSAL—

Disposal is carried out by controlled tipping at five tips—Histon, Hauxton, Landbeach, Fulbourn, and Fen Drayton. In a flat area of this kind, bordering on the Fens, it is difficult to find really suitable sites, especially having regard to the high level of the subsoil water in most places. The tips are maintained in good condition although all covering material has to be transported. Regular contracts are entered into with the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee for rodent destruction. Consideration is being given to the employment of more plant to replace hand labour, but a district of this kind cannot hope to enjoy the advantages in this connection normally found in the larger boroughs.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING—

The Council continues to operate a scheme for emptying private cesspools at a nominal charge, and the Karrier Yorkshire 700-gallon cesspool emptier is employed full time on this work. This scheme, commenced in September, 1947, has proved of great benefit to householders, especially in the semi-urban parishes where no sewers exist. The service is in such demand that a second vehicle has been ordered, and delivery is anticipated by May, 1949. In addition to this work, the vehicle is used for night soil collection in one parish, the desludging of small sewage plants on new housing sites, and the emptying of road catchpits and gullies when required.

COLLECTION OF SALVAGE—

Since the Department assumed responsibility for this work in January, 1948, considerable attention has been given to this aspect, and the public has responded well. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1949, over 67 tons of waste paper was collected, baled, and despatched to the mills. The total income from this amounted to £494 7s. 8d. A scheme has been instituted whereby the employees receive an incentive bonus of 50 per cent of the value of all salvage paper collected over four tons per month. By this means a still greater tonnage is anticipated for 1949.

Summary of Public Cleansing Work Carried Out during 1948

HOUSE REFUSE—

Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	3,634½ tons
--	-------------

HOUSE REFUSE—*continued*

Total mileage travelled (3 vehicles)...	...	30,177 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile ... ..	...	8.8d.
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal) ... ..	...	23s. 8d.
Estimated number of clearances ... ..	...	244,985
Estimated cost per clearance... ..	...	4.2d.
Average mileage per ton ... ..	...	8.51 miles
Average miles per gallon (3 vehicles) ...	...	11.04 miles
NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION (direct labour)—		
Total number of bucket clearances...	...	16,227
Estimated cost per clearance ... ..	...	4.16d.
Contract price per bucket clearance ...	...	6d.
CESSPOOL EMPTYING (one vehicle)—		
Actual mileage travelled ... ..	...	9,608 miles
Estimated cost per mile ... ..	...	5.5d.
Estimated number of clearances carried out	...	525
Estimated cost per clearance ... ..	...	34s. 0d.
Estimated number of loads disposed of ...	...	807 (565,250 galls.)
Estimated cost per load (collected and disposed) ... ..	...	22s. 3d.

The slight increase in the cost per mile for refuse vehicles is only to be expected, having regard to their increasing age, and although the cost per ton for collection and disposal has increased from 21s. 7d. to 23s. 8d., this is mainly due to increased wages and shorter hours worked under the National Joint Council agreement.

The cesspool emptier is practically self-supporting at the nominal figure charged to householders, the only deficit being the somewhat hypothetical figure of £200 allowed for depreciation of the vehicle. Having regard to the great value of the service, the position may be regarded as satisfactory.

The development of the public cleansing service has been very rapid since its inception in 1945, and great credit is due to the officer concerned.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:—

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the district which are open to the public. There is, however, much bathing in the River Cam, above and below Cambridge. Some anxiety is felt in this connection, having regard to the condition of the river, which receives a certain amount of trade waste from manufacturing premises in Hauxton and Sawston (outside the area). The position has been closely watched and frequent samples of the river are taken for analysis. All the evidence, at present, indicates intermittent discoloration rather than harmful pollution and, whilst this may be detrimental to the local amenities, formal action is precluded.

SHOPS ACT, 1934:—

There are 302 shops of various categories on the register, the majority being small premises mainly in conjunction with private houses. No necessity for formal action arose during the year. Apart from the routine visits to food shops reported elsewhere, 56 visits were made under

the Shops Act, and in one case new sanitary accommodation was provided. A somewhat liberal interpretation of the Act must be allowed in the case of the small village stores, which are usually family concerns and seldom employ more than an occasional assistant.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:—

A substantial increase in the number of persons occupying caravans owing to the acute housing position has been noted. This is only to be expected and sympathetic consideration is given to all such cases. Very few applications have been refused, although every effort is made to preserve local amenities, particularly on riverside sites. Wherever possible, car-trailer type caravans are insisted upon, and old railway coaches and converted bus bodies, etc., rejected. The introduction of the Town and Country Planning Act has somewhat complicated the position, and until a definite policy has been established from the planning point of view, the Department merely notifies applicants of their obligations in this respect. At the same time, difficulty is often experienced owing to the fine distinction between a "temporary building" under the Public Health Act, 1936, and a "movable dwelling." The usual influx of caravan dwellers for the fruit-picking season was experienced, but their stay is of short duration and no formal action was necessary.

Number of licences issued for sites...	...	...	...	10
Maximum number of vehicles involved ...	...	...	...	53*
Number of licences issued for single caravans ...	...	...	...	43
Number of licences refused ...	...	...	...	3

**This figure includes two sites for 18 huts used for seasonal fruit picking only.*

VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS:—

Apart from verminous premises and so on the major problem is that of old people living alone and in unhappy circumstances. Many of these old people are quite active and intelligent but, because of physical, and perhaps some minor mental deterioration, cannot look after themselves. In this County there is a certain amount of institutional accommodation for these cases, but not a great deal. Consideration might have been given towards the provision of accommodation, not institutional, where these old persons could receive sympathetic—I emphasise the latter word—care and attention, and yet retain a measure of self-respect and independence.

In only one case was it necessary to remove a person by compulsion (in conjunction with the Relieving Officer). Other borderline cases could, and should, have been dealt with but for the shortage of accommodation.

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises and persons ...	35
Premises fumigated	17

Articles not capable of fumigation on the spot are removed to the County Hospital, Cambridge, by arrangement with the County Council and persons in need of cleansing are also dealt with at the Institution. This arrangement was officially discontinued upon the introduction of

the new National Health Services Act, and negotiations are still in hand with the County Council for the establishment of similar facilities elsewhere.

RODENT DESTRUCTION:—

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Acts, and the Infestation Order, 1943, are administered by the Cambridge County Council through the agency of the Agricultural Executive Committee. It is anticipated, however, that this work will revert to the District Council when the new Damage by Pests Bill becomes law. The present arrangement has the advantage that all duties in this connection are discharged by one authority only. Suitable contracts are entered into for the regular inspection and clearance of the Council's property, such as Refuse Tips, etc.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:—

Visits in connection with drainage	412
House drains—new or repaired	82
Closet accommodation—new or repaired	16
Privies converted	1

The Council's scheme for sewerage the 6 parishes adjoining Cambridge (Histon, Impington, Girton, Great and Little Shelford, and Stapleford) has been approved and, although it has not been found possible to proceed with the work as one contract, two sections at least will be commenced in early 1949.

Approval is also awaited to sewerage schemes prepared for the parishes of Cottenham, Fulbourn and Milton. One is pleased to record the growing appreciation of the necessity for ensuring proper sewage disposal arrangements on new housing sites and, during the year under review, improved plant has been installed at two prefabricated bungalow sites (Oakington and Impington), and sewage disposal plants completed for sites at Girton (80 houses) and Coton (56 houses). Schemes have also been prepared for works at Swavesey (26 houses), Harston (60 houses), Milton (30 houses), and Willingham (60 houses). One can look forward to the time when the word cesspool no longer appears in our vocabulary, and the rejection of any form of drainage by this method. Much leeway has to be made up in this area, which presents a number of peculiar difficulties, *e.g.* the flat nature of the district, the heavy subsoil, and the high level of the subsoil water in most parts. In circumstances such as these, the installation of a cesspool in accordance with the byelaws is useless having regard to the daily water consumption of the average household where modern fittings exist.

SCHOOLS:—

In spite of present-day restrictions and shortage of building labour and materials progress is being made in achieving the higher standard of school premises envisaged under the new Education Act. The expansion and development of the school meals service and the installation of new kitchens is of particular value in this rural area, where children travel long distances to school and parents are usually engaged in agricultural work and fruit picking, etc., in the summer season.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

MILK SUPPLY:—

Having regard to the impending implementation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, this is likely to be the last detailed report dealing with milk supplies:—

The position to date is that there has been a great improvement in the standard of milk production premises and herds in the past ten years, and an increasing interest and appreciation amongst producers of the necessity for having healthy herds and producing milk under good hygienic conditions. There is still much to be done, of course, but when one appreciates the difficulties under which the Department has been working, and the weakness of the legislation available, the present standard is a tribute to the staff, and the result of patient work over the years.

Milk production cannot be entirely divorced from public health and the valuable contact with over 200 producers throughout the District will be missed, although it must be admitted that the present division of authority is confusing to say the least—and no less so than in the case of the poor producer. To this extent the centralisation of authority and the adoption of more uniform standards throughout the County is an advance in the right direction.

The general standards of the herds in the district show improvement and it is gratifying to note that over 44 per cent of the dairy farms now produce either "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" milk. These farms represent a much greater percentage of the total dairy cattle in the area—probably as high as 65 per cent. At present the following is the position in this district:—

Number of Wholesale Producers on Register	...	...	168
Number of Retail Producers on Register	...	...	40
Number of Wholesale and Retail Producers	...	...	17
Number of Retail Purveyors	...	...	15

The Cambridgeshire County Council administers the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, and included in the above figures are 49 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and 51 Accredited producers (approximately 22 per cent and 23 per cent respectively). It will be observed that there has been a slight increase in the Tuberculin Tested figures, and a slight decrease in the case of Accredited producers, accounted for by the fact that quite a few Accredited producers have now qualified for a T.T. licence.

There are no pasteurising plants in the area. With the return to a more normal staff, sampling of milk from retailers has been undertaken more frequently and, wherever possible, the milk is submitted to a biological test for Tuberculosis. The following table shows a summary of the results obtained:—

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1948

Category	Total Samples Taken	Number Passing Prescribed Tests	Number Failing	Number submitted to Biological Test	Number found Positive
Tuberculin Tested	9	3	6	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	4	1	3	—	—
Accredited	14	5	9	4	1
Pasteurised	11	3	8	—	—
Heat Treated	1	1	—	—	—
Ungraded	37	16	21	5	—
Totals	76	29	47	9	1

**In this case the cow was identified and removed from the herd.*

During the year improvements carried out to cowsheds and dairies by informal action were as follows:—

Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	20
New cowsheds constructed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cowsheds improved—new floors, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8
New or improved drainage	...	...	...	...	...	8
Yards and approaches improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply laid on or improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
New dairies built	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
New machines (coolers, sterilisers, or utensils, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	6

RETAIL DAIRIES:—

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	15
Visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	93

These premises are of a reasonably good standard and no trouble was experienced during the year. It is significant perhaps that the small retailer is gradually disappearing in favour of the large concerns.

BAKEHOUSES:—

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	...	83
Notices served and complied with	...	...	...	...	...	4

These premises are mainly small village bakehouses, and the requirements of the Factories Act, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are complied with. As a result of action by the Department, one unfit bakehouse has been demolished and a modern single-storey one substituted. In addition, the following improvements have been carried out:—

Bakehouses extended or improved	...	...	...	...	...	4
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	1
New drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1
New ovens installed	...	...	...	...	...	1
New machinery and dough-mixers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
Premises re-decorated	...	...	...	...	...	1

The general standard of these premises is fairly high for a rural area and in three cases completely new premises have been provided on modern lines in recent years. The installation of machinery is gradually eliminating the making of bread and cakes by hand.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (*Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938*):—

Total number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	78
Manufacture of sausages, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fish fryers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sale only of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	43

The majority of these premises were brought up to the required standard in 1946 and, as a result of constant pressure, the requirements of the Act, particularly with regard to adequate washing facilities, etc., are now accepted without question by the traders concerned. No case of food poisoning was brought to the notice of the Department during the year. During 1948 the following improvements have been recorded as a result of informal action:—

SAUSAGE-MAKING PREMISES—

New premises built	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improved premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises re-decorated	...	...	...	...	...	2

FISH-FRYING SHOPS—

New premises built	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises improved	...	...	...	...	...	1

ICE CREAM PREMISES—

New drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	2
New refrigerator, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4

There has been a considerable increase in the number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream, all of which comply with the minimum standards laid down. There are no manufacturers in the area. Sampling has been carried out frequently, although no formal action under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, has been necessary. The following table shows the results of samples taken during the year, from which it will be seen that 23 out of 30 samples fell within categories 3 or 4. Action has proved difficult owing to the doubt expressed by the trade on the efficiency of the methylene blue test as a standard:—

ICE CREAM SAMPLES FROM RETAILERS IN 1948—

Total samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	30
Samples in Category 1	...	...	...	...	...	6
" " " 2	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " " 3	...	...	...	...	...	10
" " " 4	...	...	...	...	...	13

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES, AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES:—

Recorded visits during the year were as follows:—

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	86
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	186

Other food stores, N.A.A.F.I.s, etc.	...	...	...	14
Retail dairies ...	...	...	...	93
Miscellaneous visits to food shops ...	...	...	...	52

Considerable importance has been attached to this aspect of the Department's work, and every effort continues to be made to raise the standard generally, with particular reference to the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Shopkeepers have co-operated very well, and but for the difficulty of obtaining building labour, probably much more work would have been completed. However, for a rural area, the general standard is satisfactory.

As a result of close liaison with the local Food Office no catering licence is issued until my Department has expressed satisfaction with the premises—an arrangement which proves extremely effective. The following is a summary of the improvements recorded in 1948 as a result of informal action:—

New cafes built	...	...	...	...	...	2
Restaurant kitchens improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	7
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water laid on or improved	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Re-decoration and general repairs	...	...	...	...	...	6

LICENSED PREMISES:—

The Department's action in 1946 with regard to the poor facilities existing at many licensed premises in the area is now bearing fruit. All the authorities concerned are revealing a greater interest in the matter, and the brewers generally have co-operated well within the limitations imposed by the civil licensing authorities. A noticeable improvement in the standard of sanitary accommodation and glass-washing facilities is apparent and in particular the following improvements have been noted in 1948 as a result of informal action by the Department:—

Licences surrendered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premises completely re-conditioned	...	...	...	...	...	1
New sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	4
New drainage installed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Improved drainage	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	3
Glass-washing facilities improved (geysers installed, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Improved lighting	...	...	...	...	...	1
General repairs	...	...	...	...	...	14
Re-decorating (internally and externally)	...	...	...	...	...	20
Total visits recorded during year	...	...	...	...	...	208

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:—

Since private slaughtering was discontinued in 1940, meat for the whole district is supplied from Government slaughter houses and depots in Cambridge. The supervision of butchers' premises and vehicles continues to receive attention, and frequent inspection of meat in the shops is carried out.

The manner in which meat is transported from Cambridge is still open to criticism, especially in the hot weather. Considerable improvement could be effected by reducing the loads on the long routes and ensuring that at least hind quarters of beef are hung during transit.

The new scheme for private pig-killing under license has resulted in 12 slaughterhouses being re-licensed after suitable repairs, etc. One slaughterhouse has been licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Routine inspection of pigs slaughtered privately is carried out wherever possible and owners are advised where disease is encountered. In all cases the unfit meat has been voluntarily surrendered.

Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	52
Visits to butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	86
Slaughterhouses completely modernised	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses improved	...	...	...	...	3

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933:—

Licences to slaughter renewed, 1947	...	...	...	26
New licences granted, 1948	...	...	...	5
Total on Register at 31st December, 1948	...	...	...	31

The majority of pig-killing now takes place in licensed slaughterhouses and administration of the Act is facilitated. No known case of infringement of the Act was revealed during the year.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS:—

Apart from a small outbreak at an R.A.F. camp (cooked meats suspected) no cases of food poisoning occurred in the area during the year 1948.

The abbreviated list given below conveys some idea of the variety of foodstuffs dealt with during the year and condemned as unfit for human consumption. The majority of the foodstuffs were condemned in small quantities as a result of routine visits to food premises. The whole of the imported and home-killed meat was condemned owing to loss of condition, decomposition, etc., arising from transport or storage, and in no case was disease involved. In the majority of cases severe bruising, and insufficient cooling of the carcase before despatch, led to the condemnation of the meat.

The vegetables and fruit were mainly from large N.A.A.F.I. depots, etc., and the casks of fruit pulp intended for jam manufacture were condemned owing to fermentation and loss of condition in transit.

Summary of Foodstuffs Condemned

HOME-KILLED MEAT—

133 lb. of beef (miscellaneous)
1 ox liver

IMPORTED MEAT—

176 lb. boneless New Zealand beef
170 lb. Argentine beef
60½ lb. mutton

TINNED GOODS—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	tins
Jam and marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	tins
Soups	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	tins
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	gallons

FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES, ETC.—

Apples	...	...	...	...	...	...	700	lb.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	lb.
Oranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	401	lb.
Mixed oranges and grapefruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	568	lb.

RATIONED GOODS—

Breakfast cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	7½	lb.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	30½	lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	lb.
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	¾	lb.
Cake	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	lb.
Treacle	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	lb.
Flour, oats, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4½	lb.
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin

MISCELLANEOUS—

Hungarian apricot pulp	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	cask
Jamaican bitter orange pulp	...	...	...	...	...	...	191	casks
Herrings	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	boxes
Dried fruit (dates and prunes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	lb.
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Gravy salt	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	packets
Beef cubes	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	

The destination of all condemned and damaged foodstuffs consigned into the area for manufacturing and animal feeding purposes was checked.

FACTORIES:—

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Notifications of outworkers received	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Infected premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

As a result of action by the Department, the following improvements have been recorded during the year:—

New sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Improved sanitary accommodation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New drainage installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage improved	1
Premises extended or repaired	5
Improved working accommodation... ..	4
Re-decoration	3
Water laid on	1

The majority of registered premises are small undertakings employing few persons. The Department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases Under Age Groups

Disease	Total cases notified	At Ages—Years												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—		
Scarlet Fever	7	—	1	1	4	2	22	6	—	1	—	—	—	30	—
Measles	225	—	15	21	23	20	111	23	5	6	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	80	5	10	10	12	9	32	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery— (Flexner)	19	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	5	7	19	—
Pneumonia	23	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	6	3	3	5	—	5
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	395	6	26	32	42	33	170	32	5	16	7	11	15	50	5

Measles and whooping-cough, made notifiable in 1939, account for most of the notifications. The figures are, no doubt, useful from a statistical point of view, but it would require quite a special staff to visit and check up on every case reported, so, in so far as research is concerned, the figures are largely valueless. There is an increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever—37 as against 9 in 1947. Scarlet fever to-day is a relatively mild illness, bearing little resemblance to the old type prevalent about 20 to 25 years ago.

It will be noted that there was only one case of diphtheria; this particular child had not been immunised. I estimate that about 80 per cent of children under the age of 15 have been fully protected. Since 4th July, 1948, the arrangements for immunisation are the responsibility of the County Council, and the District Council's scheme, which I think functioned quite efficiently, has lapsed. Under this scheme a parent could arrange for the family doctor to carry out the immunisation at times and places convenient to both parties for a fee of 7s. 6d., paid by the District Council. This obviated the delays and waiting about usually associated with mass immunisation at clinics.

The cases of dysentery occurred at a mental hospital in the area; it should be remembered that cases of this sort are not uncommon in these institutions notwithstanding every possible precaution.

The only other feature was the occurrence of two cases of poliomyelitis in one family: both made a good recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25	2	6	—	2	2	2	—	—
35	2	3	—	—	4	1	—	—
45	2	—	1	—	2	1	—	—
55	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & over	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	12	11	2	4	10	7	—	—

3 Deaths occurred of cases which had not notified before death.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(Signed) ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

